HANFORD COMMUNITIES

Hanford Cleanup & Community Updates

Hanford Vit Plant Reaches 100,000-Gallon Milestone

Source: DOE Office of Environmental Management and Tri-City Herald

The Hanford Waste Treatment Plant has reached a major commissioning milestone, with more than 100,000 gallons of Hanford tank waste turned into glass at the Low-Activity Waste Facility.

The milestone marks continued progress in treating Hanford's tank waste and moving the site's vitrification mission from startup toward sustained operations. The waste being treated is part of the approximately 56 million gallons of radioactive and chemical waste generated during past plutonium production and stored in underground tanks on the Hanford Site.

For the Tri-Cities region, the milestone represents visible progress on one of Hanford's most complex cleanup challenges: treating tank waste in a stable form for long-term disposal.

Read the DOE Update

Read the Coverage

Cleanup Progress: Waste Removed from 23rd Large Underground Tank

Source: DOE Office of Environmental Management

Hanford crews have removed waste from another aging underground tank, marking continued progress in the long-term effort to retrieve waste from older single-shell tanks and move it to newer double-shell tanks for safer storage until treatment.

The work focused on Tank A-102 in Hanford's East Area. According to DOE, crews transferred about 41,000 gallons of decades-old solid waste from the tank, bringing the total number of tanks with waste removed to 23, and the total amount of waste retrieved to approximately 3.4 million gallons.

Tank waste retrieval is one of the major steps needed to reduce long-term risk and prepare waste for treatment and disposal.

Watch Hanford Communities' 2021 tank waste overview video for a broader overview of Hanford tank waste.

Read More

Local Leaders Tour the Hanford Site

By Hanford Communities | June 26, 2026

Local leaders recently toured several areas of the Hanford Site to learn more about cleanup progress, long-term priorities, and the work underway across different parts of the site.

The tour included elected officials and staff from several Tri-City area cities, counties, and ports, and highlighted cleanup projects and facilities connected to tank waste treatment, risk reduction, groundwater treatment, and long-term site remediation. Stops included areas such as Tank AP-106/Tank-Side Cesium Removal system, the Waste Treatment Plant, the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility, 200 West Pump and Treat, and the 100 K Area.

Hanford Communities helps connect local governments and regional partners with Hanford cleanup information, public involvement opportunities, and issues that affect the Tri-Cities region.

Public Involvement: Hanford Sitewide Permit Draft Rev. 9A

Source: Washington State Department of Ecology

The Washington State Department of Ecology is preparing for public comment on Draft Revision 9A of the Hanford Sitewide Permit.

The Sitewide Permit is one of the key regulatory tools guiding how hazardous and radioactive waste is managed at Hanford. Draft Revision 9A covers 52 waste sites and facilities.

Ecology's public comment period is scheduled to run from June 29 through Oct. 27, 2026.

Public involvement gives community members an opportunity to review proposed permit updates, ask questions, and submit comments before decisions are finalized.

Learn More from Ecology

Hanford Funding Update: Budget Process Still Underway

Sources: TRIDEC statement and Tri-City Herald coverage

Recent proposed federal budget reductions for Hanford cleanup and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) have raised concerns among workers, local leaders, and regional organizations. However, the federal budget process is still underway, and final funding levels will not be determined for several months.

In a June 8 statement, TRIDEC noted that proposed budgets are only the beginning of the appropriations process and that Congress has consistently shown bipartisan support for Hanford and PNNL. TRIDEC also pointed to FY 2026 as a recent example, when final Hanford funding increased by $277 million, nearly 9.4% above the previous year, despite earlier proposed reductions.

TRIDEC said it will continue advocating for the resources needed to support Hanford cleanup, PNNL's research mission, and the local workforce as the FY 2027 budget process moves forward.

Read the TRIDEC Statement

Risk-Reduction Spotlight: WESF Capsule Transfer and Dry Storage Progress

By Hanford Communities | June 24, 2026

Hanford is moving highly radioactive cesium and strontium capsules from underwater storage at the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility, known as WESF, toward interim dry storage.

The capsules were created decades ago as part of Hanford's tank waste management history and have been stored underwater to provide radiation shielding and help manage heat. Moving them to dry storage is an important risk-reduction step and supports the longer-term future of the WESF facility.

A new Hanford Communities blog post explains what the WESF capsules are, why they are being moved to dry storage, and how the work fits into long-term Hanford cleanup.

Read the Blog

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